

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 - N/A

TAGS: FAO, PINS, ES

SUBJ: CANDIDACY OF SALVADORAN DR FRANCISCO AQUINO FOR DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF THE FAO

REF: STATE 243159 OF NOV 74; B) SAN SALVADOR 2976 OF
JULY 74;

ROME FOR USDEL FAO

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH GREGORIO CONTRERAS MORALES, GOES REPRESENTATIVE TO EEC, AND JOSE MIXCO FISCHNALER, SALVADORA AMBASSADOR TO CHILE, EMBOFF, WITHOUT COMMENTING, WAS PRESENT AT A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OFF QUINO'S FAO CANDIDACY. CONTRERAS IS HANDLING CONTACTS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN GOES EFFORT TO ELECT AQUINO WHILE MIXCO IS COORDINATING SOUTH AMERICAN EFFORTS. THEY NOW COUNT 25 CERTAIN VOTES FOR AQUINO, VIRTUALLY ALL FROM OAS COUNTRIES, AND 26 CERTAIN VOTS FRO SAOUMA OF LEBANON. ALL OTHER CANDIDATES ARE DISCOUNTED. AFRO-ASIAN BLOC IS SEEN AS CRUCIAL SWING BLOC.

2. CONTRERAS BELIEVES INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLEDESH ARE LEANING STRONGLY TWOARDS AQUINO, AND HOPES TO PICK UP SOME SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN VOTES. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH USAFO CON-
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FRERAS APPARENTLY RECEIVED IMPRESSION US WOULD LIKE TO VOTE

FOR AQUINO, BUT HE FEARS MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL CAUSE US TO VOTE FOR SAOUMA. HE UNDERSTANDS US RELUCTANCE TO MAKE COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME BUT BOTH HE AND MIXCO STRONGLY HINTED THAT FAILURE OF OUR SUPPORT COULD BE A FATAL BLOW TO AQUINO CANDIDACY WHICH GOES CONSIDERS AS ONE OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.

3. A GOES TRADE MISSION TO EASTERN EUROPE IN NOVEMBER 1973 HAD AMONG ITS PRIMARY GOALS THE PROMOTION OF AQUINO'S CANDIDACY. CONTRERAS BELIEVES BULGARIA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND SEVERAL OTHER EAST BLOC NATIONS WILL VOTE FOR AQUINO. MIXCO INTIMATED THAT GOES HAS HAD PRIVATE CONTACTS WITH CUBA AND ALSO EXPECTS TO RECEIVE CUBA'S VOTE AS AN EXPRESSION OF LATIN SOLIDARITY.

4. COMMENT: MUCH OF CONVERSATION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EFFORT TO LOBBY US USING ARGUMENTS OF SOLIDARITY WITH LATIN AMERICA, INCLUDING LOW KEY SUGGESTIONS OF GOES DISPLEASURE SHOULD WE NOT SUPPORT AQUINO, AND INSINUATION THAT FAILURE TO SUPPORT THEIR FAO CANDIDATE COULD COOL US-GOES RELATIONS. IN LATER CONVERSATION WITH CARLOS CORDERO D'AUBUISSON, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, GOES FONOFF, HE SUBSTANTIALLY REPEATED ABOVE ESPECIALLY EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE GOES ATTACHES TO US SUPPORT.
MOSKOWITZ

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